

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8-9, 2007**

**STATE BOARD ROOM
1ST FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on August 8-9, 2007, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The Board conducted the following business:

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair C.B. Akins indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to come to agreement on the persons to recommend to the full board for the positions of chair and vice chair for the coming year. He indicated that the committee would need to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel under the provisions of KRS 61.810(1)(f).

Kaye Baird then moved to enter into closed session and David Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried. The committee went into closed session at 8:03 a.m.

At 8:27 a.m., David Rhodes moved to come out of closed session and Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried. No action was taken during the closed session.

Chair Akins then asked if there was a motion regarding the filling of positions of chair and vice chair for the coming year. David Rhodes moved to recommend to the full Board that Bonnie Lash Freeman be elected as vice chair and Joe Brothers be elected as chair. Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion and it carried.

Chair Akins noted that he would make this recommendation to the full Board when it comes up on the agenda.

At this point, David Rhodes moved to adjourn the committee meeting and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried and the committee adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Keith Travis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked that all cell phones be turned off or muted and reminded everyone that the meeting was being broadcasted over the Internet via webcasting.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were C.B. Akins, Kaye Baird, Joe Brothers, Jeanne Ferguson, Bonnie Lash Freeman, Judy Gibbons, Doug Hubbard, Tom Layzell, David Rhodes, Keith Travis, Janna Vice and David Webb.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 13-14, 2007, AND JULY 11, 2007, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETINGS AND JULY 14, 2007, SPECIAL MEETING

Doug Hubbard moved approval of all of the submitted minutes and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ELECTION OF KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

Chair Travis called on C.B. Akins, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to make that committee's report. Chair Akins indicated that the Nominating Committee met on July 11 to set up the process and met again today to finalize its recommendation. He reported that the committee came to agreement to recommend Joe Brothers as chair and Bonnie Lash Freeman as vice chair for the coming year. At this point Doug Hubbard moved to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations for chair and vice chair and Janna Vice seconded the motion. The motion carried with Keith Travis voting no. Travis said that Mr. Brothers has his support but not his vote.

Mr. Travis then thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as its chair and thanked his family for their understanding of the time he has spent away from them to devote to this position. Travis thanked Bonnie Lash Freeman for her strength and stability and also thanked Department staff because he said they are not often recognized for their hard work. He went on to say that recently someone asked him if changes had occurred in the last three years and he felt there certainly have been some significant changes. Travis indicated that he would reflect just a second on these changes that included finishing a new testing contract worth \$80 million, realigning the core content, debating KHSAA issues for over two years with these still continuing, losing the longest serving commissioner in the history of reform and being engaged in the process to replace him for the last 10-11 months, having the first African American Deputy Commissioner hired in the history of the Department of Education with the role of diversity being very strong within the Department and replacing 91% of the state Board members. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity to work with each of these members and encouraged the Board to move forward with the pursuit of its goals. Travis ended with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King as follows: "Our lives begin to end when we become silent about the things that matter to us." He emphasized that he intends not to be silent. At this point, Mr. Travis suggested taking five minutes to switch roles so that Mr. Brothers could begin his duties as chair.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION CABINET

Secretary Laura Owens reported the following:

- Congratulations to Joe Brothers upon his election as chair.
- A group from across agencies in the Cabinet met to talk about professional development at the recommendation of the Developmental Task Force. They will be putting something on paper to bring to the Board at a later date.
- The Kentucky Department of Education did a phenomenal job on the KEN project and carried it out on schedule. The Cabinet will make a joint budget request for Phase 2 of this project.
- Questions have arisen about the commitment to education reform and so I wrote an Op-Ed piece to assure everyone that all agencies are committed to education reform. Copies are being distributed to you.
- In meeting with people across the state, I have offered your help to them and told them to contact you with their concerns.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

President Tom Layzell reported the following:

- Congratulations to the new chair and vice chair upon their election.
- Concurrence goes to what Secretary Owens said about the strong support by all agencies for education reform.
- Collaboration between higher education and P-12 is critically important. As I transition out, I am confident that Brad Cowgill will work closely with you in his role as interim.
- Two handouts have been passed out to you. The first one asks the question: “What is it going to take to increase the number of bachelor’s degrees?” and the other handout looks at the college access initiative.
- The Council on Postsecondary Education’s budget request addresses some of the issues in the previously mentioned handouts.
- Brad Cowgill takes office around September 1.
- On September 16-17, the Trusteeship Conference will take place and all state board members will receive an invitation.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Dr. Phil Rogers reported the following:

- Congratulations to Joe Brothers and Bonnie Lash Freeman upon their election as officers.
- About a year and a half ago, the Education Professional Standards Board started working on the redesign on the master's programs and they will get the regulations related to the changes in these programs this month. The notion was to develop a coherent advanced preparation model up through the doctorate level. The focus is to help prepare our teachers for those skills and knowledge to close the achievement gap. The desired outcome is to have the master's program end up with teachers that are leaders. The Education Professional Standards Board has one foot in K-12 and one foot in postsecondary education. We must maintain the level of collaboration we have now because we can do more collectively than individually.
- The Education Professional Standards Board has been recognized by the National Council on Teaching for America's Future for initiatives that are in progress.
- We will be sending a report to Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland from the Education Leadership Redesign group on the design for the principal preparation program. This program will go to the Education Professional Standards Board about six months after the master's program. The current master's program and principal's program will sunset and people will have to reapply under the new criteria.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEW CHAIR

Newly elected Chair Joe Brothers made the following comments:

- I sincerely thank the Board members for their support. They are decent, honorable people whose purpose is to do what is best for kids.
- I express appreciation to Keith Travis for his service. He has worked tirelessly in the role as chair.
- I am fully supportive of Kevin Noland as interim commissioner and I have no agenda except what is best for kids.
- I plan to continue education reform with the appropriate adjustments.

- I commit to finding a commissioner worthy of our state and ask that people apply for the position.
- You can be assured that this Board supports the kids of Kentucky. Just look at the cover of the agenda book and you will see the Board's vision.

REPORT FROM THE PRE-K TO 16 COUNCIL

Jeanne Ferguson made the following report:

- Congratulations to Joe Brothers and Bonnie Lash Freeman upon their election and thanks to Keith Travis for his work as chair over the last several years.
- The Pre-K to 16 Council met on June 20.
- Secretary Owens reported on a work group that she is putting together with the commissioner of education to develop a multi-phase plan to utilize career and technical education programs and facilities to help students understand the relevance of literacy, mathematics, technology and science knowledge and skills and to improve students' academic performance and mastery of those skills necessary for postsecondary education, career preparation, the military and the workforce.
- A presentation occurred by Robin Chandler, Jim Applegate, and Phil Rogers on how Kentucky students are encouraged to understand the Constitution of the United States.
- An update occurred from the local P-16 Councils.
- Jim Applegate, Dianne Bazell and Linda France talked about the definition of college readiness.
- The Dual Credit Task Force gave a report and indicated that Jobs for the Future has been employed by the task force to look at dual credit issues, such as eligibility, feasibility, financial issues and evaluation of success of the program.
- Kentucky has been one of 21 states invited by the National Mathematics and Science Initiative to apply for a grant worth \$13 million over a six-year period. Kentucky will identify 41 high schools and 26 districts to be involved and the grant is pending.
- P-16 quality indicators were presented by Dianne Bazell.
- The next meeting of the Council will be September 19.
- I was appointed Chair of the Pre-K to 16 Council.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland reported the following:

- Last week you saw a press release that a United States competitive grant was awarded to Kentucky for \$5.8 million over a five-year period in order to serve our students with disabilities. This will be through helping teachers with professional development, focusing on recruitment and retention, establishing a team of experts to develop a Train the Trainers module and helping with alternate assessments for students with disabilities. The Department partnered with the Special Parent Involvement Network, state special education cooperatives and a local district special education director to apply for this grant.
- More new employees need to be recognized. In the summer you will notice more of them because folks go back to their school districts and new teachers come to the Department. We do not like to take teachers out of the classroom during the year because this will disrupt the teaching and learning environment; thus, the movement occurs in the summer. The following new employees were asked to stand and be recognized.
 - Elaine Farris, Deputy Commissioner of Learning and Results Services
 - Ken Draut, Associate Commissioner of Assessment and Accountability
 - Larry Stinson, Associate Commissioner of District Support Services
 - Jamie Spugnardi, Associate Commissioner of Teaching and Learning
 - Kevin O'Hair, Consultant in the Office of Assessment and Accountability
 - Loretta Johnson, Executive Secretary in the Office of Assessment and Accountability
 - Jessica Williams, Financial Analyst in the Office of District Support Services
 - Deborah Kamer, Financial Analyst in the Office of District Support Services
 - Piper Lewis, Branch Manager in the Office of District Support Services
 - David Bryant, Policy Analyst in the Office of District Support Services
 - Elizabeth Goldey, Executive Secretary in the Office of District Support Services
 - Matthew Tungate, Information officer in the Division of Communications
 - David Simpson, Consultant in the Office of Leadership and School Improvement
 - Jennifer Payne, Office Support Assistant in the Office of Leadership and School Improvement
 - Lee Logan, Administrative Specialist in the Office of Teaching and Learning
 - Katie Williams, Consultant in the Office of Teaching and Learning
 - Grace Yeh, Consultant in the Office of Teaching and Learning
 - Brandy Hutchens, Administrative Specialist in the Office of District Support Services

All of these new employees were welcomed.

- Charma Linville was recognized as KDE Team Member of the Month. She was nominated by her colleagues for organizing math teacher workshops this summer. Linville was instrumental in the success of this initiative. She was congratulated and invited to have lunch with the Board.
- Additional new employees were introduced as follows:
 - Larry Murphy, Division of Virtual Learning
 - Kari Welch, Division of Virtual Learning
 - Ali McCreary, Division of Curriculum
 - Bridget Stanfield, Office of Assessment and Accountability
 - Christine Powell, Office of Assessment and Accountability
 - Cheri Meadows, promoted to Staff Assistant in the Office of District Support Services
 - Annette Bridges, promoted to new Director of the Division of Early Childhood
 - Joe McCowan, Branch Manager of the science and math branch in the Division of Curriculum
- Starr Lewis was asked to stand and it was shared that she would be retiring in three weeks. Starr has done a wonderful job and is recognized by teachers around the state for her outstanding work. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for the students of Kentucky.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION HONORING KEA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Chair Joe Brothers read the following resolution:

***Resolution Honoring the Kentucky Education Association
By
The Kentucky Board of Education
Commonwealth of Kentucky***

Whereas, **The Kentucky Education Association is a well-respected, professional organization representing educators across the state;**

Whereas, **The Kentucky Education Association's support is vital in the journey for reaching proficiency by 2014;**

Whereas, **The Kentucky Education Association is a valued partner in ensuring a high-quality education for all of Kentucky's students; and,**

Whereas, **The Kentucky Education Association is celebrating its 150th anniversary;**

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Kentucky Board of Education to offer its congratulations to the Kentucky Education Association on reaching this historical milestone of 150 years.

Chair Brothers then asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Doug Hubbard moved approval and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried. Brothers then presented the resolution to Mary Ann Blankenship from the Kentucky Education Association.

Ms. Blankenship brought greetings from KEA's president and vice president. She said that KEA intends to remain as the Board's partner to do what is best for children in Kentucky.

DIALOGUE WITH THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Jane Venters stated that the Commission on Interscholastic Athletics elected her as chair and noted that she was glad to meet with the Board. Venters said the Commission wants to hear more from the Board about the direction it should take. She stated that she served on the state board previously and is familiar with the KHSAA, but is not current on issues related to that organization. Venters shared that the Commission met on July 12 and again yesterday. She indicated that the group has taken the charge given to it by the state board, formulated questions for KHSAA, and reviewed materials requested from them. She noted that the Commission will meet again in September to review information on the remaining topics. After that, she indicated, the Commission will be in more of a deliberation mode. She then asked for any questions from the Board.

Doug Hubbard said he went to the Commission's meeting yesterday and pointed out that KHSAA picked random samples of appeals to give to the Commission. He asked if it was the intent of the Commission to meet with the Board and to have a public hearing.

Ms. Venters responded that the Commission talked about a public hearing and will pursue this after the information gathering phase. She said that the Commission would meet with the Board at its pleasure if that was the desire of Board members.

Janna Vice then asked whether the Commission had a plan for its work.

Jane Venters indicated that the issues the Commission is pursuing are identified in the minutes from the last meeting. Kevin Noland then commented that a copy of these minutes would be passed out to the Board members.

Keith Travis then identified the issues he would like to see examined as appeals not being handled in a timely manner, whether appeal decisions were regularly overturned, if additional members are needed on the Board of Control, if more members of the Board of Control need to be selected by the Kentucky Board of Education and the accountability of the KHSAA in general.

At this point, Kevin Noland passed out the minutes from the Commission's last meeting and pointed out the issues it has generated to examine.

Janna Vice said she is very sensitive to the timeliness of appeals and whether these should be adjudicated by the Board of Control.

Keith Travis added that the issue of the amount of legal fees incurred by KHSAA needs to be examined and whether these are excessive.

Doug Hubbard commented that he hoped that a time would be set up for the Commission to meet with the Board.

Janna Vice then stated that timeliness and equity in terms of decisions being rendered across the state are other issues to examine.

David Rhodes then brought up the role of athletics in getting to proficiency as something to examine.

At this point, Joe Brothers asked the other Board members if there is a need to establish a link between the Board and Commission through a joint meeting.

David Rhodes said he felt that today's meeting is the time to share thoughts with Ms. Venters that can go back to the Commission.

Brothers then inquired with Ms. Venters if she had gathered the kind of information she needed from the Board to go back and work with in the meetings of the Commission.

Ms. Venters replied affirmatively and said she would continue to take information from individual Board members at any time.

David Webb then interjected that he felt the Commission should be independent of the Board. Keith Travis agreed with Webb and said they should be allowed to function without the state board directing their audit.

Janna Vice voiced that she thought the issues identified by the Commission are on target and they should be allowed to proceed.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then inquired if the Board wants an interim report from the Commission.

Kevin Noland suggested that the Commission be invited to come to the Board in December and present its draft report.

Joe Brothers stated he is comfortable with the Commission serving as an independent body and thought that individual members can forward information to them at any time. He summarized that the draft report will come to the Board in December and that the Board needs to give them as much autonomy as possible.

UPDATE FROM COVINGTON INDEPENDENT AND JEFFERSON COUNTY ON SCHOOL SUPPORT PLANS

Deputy Commissioner Elaine Farris indicated that Barbara Kennedy, Director of Scholastic Assistance, would be filling in for Steve Schenck who will be out for bypass surgery for several weeks. She asked Ms. Kennedy to introduce the discussion.

Barbara Kennedy wished Steve Schenck good wishes and a speedy recovery and noted that Elaine Farris will be assisting her staff during his absence. She said that it is time for an update from Covington Independent and Jefferson County on their school support plans. Kennedy commended the two districts coming before the Board today for their hard work and said that staff is excited about work done there so far. She indicated that today the districts would update the Board on where they are on the implementation of their support plans. Kennedy then introduced Superintendent Jack Moreland from Covington Independent and asked him to introduce the staff with him.

Superintendent Moreland indicated that the district submitted a one-page summary of their plan to the Board for this meeting but wanted to assure them that is not all that is going on because the plan is actually an 18-page document. He then introduced Linda Jackson, the district's Chief Academic Officer; Ray Finke, Principal at Holmes Junior/Senior High School; and Rick Ross, head of federal programs in the district. Moreland asked Linda Jackson to share with the Board the professional development activities that have occurred over the summer to prepare for the start of school.

Ms. Jackson then highlighted those professional development activities that have occurred and grouped them under the following four goals:

- Goal 1: Improve academic rigor, create a professional learning community, foster a safe and supportive environment, and provide ongoing support for teachers and students in eighth grade.
- Goal 2: Holmes Leadership Team, comprised of teacher leaders and academy administrators, will create a network to improve instructional practices, develop

capacity for leadership beyond the building administrators, provide support for teachers in a particular discipline and create a cadre of trainers in the school.

- Goal 3: Students at Holmes Junior/Senior High School will be engaged in relevant learning activities 100% of the school day. This will be accomplished through maximizing the schedule to reflect time-on tasks; students engaged in relevant, rigorous work and assessments; and a curriculum that provides a schedule for teaching core content standards.
- Goal 4: Ensure that the current SBDM council on the Holmes Junior/Senior High campus is actively ready to assume their responsibilities and duties when the school reaches their academic goal.

At the end of Ms. Jackson's presentation, Superintendent Moreland said he was concerned about the number of new staff with little experience that will be starting this year out at Holmes Junior/Senior High School. He indicated that he lost 171 years of experience and replaced it with 28 years of experience. Moreland then stated that Board members are welcome to visit the district's schools at any time.

Doug Hubbard commented that he was opposed to the transfer of SBDM authority to the superintendent, but feels now that opinion was wrong. He noted that he could see a change in philosophy since the last time the district presented to the Board.

Joe Brothers pointed out that the Board will be in Northern Kentucky in November and perhaps can visit Holmes Junior/Senior High at that time.

Kaye Baird then asked how the parent participation is in the school.

Superintendent Moreland replied that parent participation is problematic and is one area where staff has not been as successful as it has wanted to be.

C.B. Akins pointed out that parent involvement is not an option and said the district must get the school into the community. He advised that Covington could learn from other folks who are doing well in this area.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then said that students need to know they have a role in being accountable for performance. She thought the use of the Individual Learning Plan can get students to focus on this. Freeman emphasized that parents need to be trained and that the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership is one initiative in this area. She advised the district to continue to reach out to parents.

Joe Brothers suggested that a plan for connecting resources to engage parents should be a focus in Covington.

Superintendent Moreland replied that the district does have plans in this area and can focus on this next time when it comes before the Board.

Joe Brothers asked if there was any way to get this information before the next meeting.

Superintendent Moreland indicated that a synopsis in writing could be provided to the Board.

Judy Gibbons then asked if there was anything the Board could do to help the district.

Superintendent Moreland replied that actually two highly skilled educators could be used but that if the district could have the help of its previous highly skilled educator to interpret test scores, that would be very helpful.

At this time, Division Director Barbara Kennedy invited the Jefferson County team to come forward to talk about the implementation status of the support plans at Iroquois Middle and Southern Leadership Academy. Kevin Noland added that he had met with Dr. Sheldon Berman, the new superintendent, in the last two weeks and talked about how the Department and the district could work together for the benefit of students. He emphasized that he found Dr. Berman's collaborative approach very exciting.

Barbara Kennedy then commented that the staff in the district was very dedicated to working towards the goal of improving student achievement in these schools. She introduced Sandy Ledford, Betty Graham and Linda Duncan and then turned the presentation over to Dr. Berman.

Dr. Berman indicated that he could not take credit for the plan but said he would take responsibility for its implementation. He then asked Sandy Ledford, who is in charge of middle schools, to take the Board through the implementation status of the plan.

The topics covered by Ms. Ledford were theory of action, instructional leadership team, staffing, curriculum changes, professional developing and training, class size reduction, physical plant enhancements, technology updates, family and community involvement, summer program, funding and program evaluation. She gave details on where each of these initiatives stood.

Dr. Berman then stated that he came to Jefferson County and inherited Southern Leadership Academy, Iroquois Middle and the court case. He emphasized it is a major investment of the district to rectify these situations and said a comprehensive plan is in place to make the improvements.

C.B. Akins indicated to Dr. Berman that he had won him over when he said that he could not take credit for the plan but would take responsibility. Akins stated he was impressed with the very detailed implementation plan and the three-year commitment to see that it was carried out. Dr. Akins gave positive comments about the Fun Night because it will get the community into the school and also the naming of the newsletter with the word "Parent Guardian", which indicates that it is a piece for the parents and not the school.

Jeanne Ferguson echoed Dr. Akins' comments.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then said that she was very proud to be from Jefferson County and thought the plan and efforts the district is making are exemplary. She did ask about how the district planned to use the EXPLORE data and emphasized there needed to be a plan on gleaning information from this data.

Ms. Ledford replied that each student has an Individual Learning Plan and said staff has been trained on how to use this plan to benefit the students.

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NORM-REFERENCED TEST

For this presentation, Elaine Farris, Ken Draut and Rhonda Sims came forward. Ms. Farris said that Mr. Draut would go through a brief PowerPoint giving background on this situation and then Ms. Sims would bring forward recommendations from the Department.

Mr. Draut then presented the following PowerPoint presentation:

- Highlights of KBE discussion in June regarding norm-referenced testing:
 - Following the recommendations of SCAAC, changes should begin with the new biennium in 2008-2009.
 - ✓ Addition of a single uniform elementary NRT
 - ✓ Inclusion of the elementary NRT, and
 - ✓ Middle school EXPLORE results in school accountability calculations
 - KBE strongly encourages schools to use the same elementary NRT in 2007-2008 as the prior year (2006-2007) for comparison of performance across the two years.
 - ✓ NRT requirements in the current regulation are to administer once in elementary (K-5), include reading and mathematics components, report results publicly and discuss individual student results with parents.
 - Steps to include the NRT for school year 2007-2008
 - ✓ Administer district-selected elementary NRTs allowing flexibility and following current regulation.
 - ✓ Administer EXPLORE to eighth grade students.
 - ✓ Report NRT and EXPLORE results publicly, discuss individual results with parents, and use results in the development of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

- ✓ Release a Request of Proposals (RFP) and negotiate a contract for a uniform single NRT.
 - ✓ Secure a reserved form of EXPLORE for state administration.
 - ✓ Revise 703 KAR 5:020, The formula for school accountability.
- Steps to include the NRT in school year 2008-2009
 - Administer the single uniform NRT at the elementary school.
 - Include elementary NRT and EXPLORE results in accountability.

Rhonda Sims then came forward to present a summary of the feedback from the District Assessment Coordinator Advisory Group and the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC). She gave the feedback of these two groups first and then moved to the recommendations of the Department on the same issues. The following issues and recommendations were made:

- In what elementary grade should the single uniform elementary NRT be administered? - Administer in grade 3. The NRT can serve multiple purposes such as national comparison for parent information, school accountability and identification for gifted and talented.
- At what time in the school year should the single uniform elementary NRT be administered? - Do not administer during the KCCT spring testing window given the increased reading and mathematics testing at grade 3; continue to research and discuss the stakeholder issues, such as pattern of absences and coding students for accountability; seek vendor bids for either/or fall (September/October) and winter (January/February) administration with the release of the Request for Proposals to determine any logistical and cost issues.
- What portion of the school accountability formula at elementary and middle schools should be derived from the elementary NRT and middle school EXPLORE results? - Include the elementary NRT for 5% for school accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) will continue to work on the percentage of school accountability that should be derived from the middle school NRT (EXPLORE) as regulatory language is developed.
- Which current content area weight should be reduced and by what amount to allow for the inclusion of the elementary NRT and middle school EXPLORE results in the accountability formula? - Implement the recommendation of SCAAC for the elementary NRT (reduce reading and mathematics from 22% to 20% each; reduce science and social studies from 14.5% each to 14% each); SCAAC will discuss an EXPLORE recommendation at its September meeting; KDE will seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability (OEA); the Kentucky Board of Education will review regulatory language for a first reading in October.

Bonnie Lash Freeman said she is concerned about the schools and districts knowing how to use the EXPLORE data.

Rhonda Sims said that Department staff will need to get this message out since this was the first time that EXPLORE was given.

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland reported that the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee will meet next week and he will be able to report on the status of the Board's regulations following that meeting. He went on to say that the Office of Education Accountability had referred a school-based decision making matter to the Board that will require the appointment of a hearing officer. C.B. Akins then moved to appoint the hearing officer to handle this matter and Judy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Action/Consent Items

1. **Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee Membership.** Division Director Michael Miller indicated that Denise Henry, Sherry Beiderheimer and Artavia Aklund are being recommended to fill positions on the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee. He said that their background can be found within the staff note on page 97.

Janna Vice moved approval of these recommended individuals to serve on the committee and Jeanne Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action/Discussion Items

1. **704 KAR 7:101, Repeal of 704 KAR 7:100, Approval of operation of alternative education programs for purposes of drivers' license revocation (Final).** Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland said the repeal of this regulation deals with the No Pass, No Drive initiative, which was in effect for many years but was challenged because it just applied to alternative schools. He explained that the General Assembly passed a new law so that it would apply to all districts and high schools; thus, he said the old regulation must be repealed.

Janna Vice moved final approval of 704 KAR 7:101, which would repeal 704 KAR 7:100. C.B. Akins seconded the motion and it carried.

Review Items

1. **Report from the Interagency Task Force on Dual Credit.** Division Director Linda Pittenger introduced the following persons who came forward for this presentation: Faith Thompson, Branch Manager for secondary schools in the Department of Education; Jan Muto, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Bennie Lile, Barren County administrator; and also Dr. Janna Vice, who participated in the Task Force to represent the Kentucky Board of Education. Ms. Pittenger said the group was focused on transitional points because dual credit has a place there. Pittenger defined dual credit as a high school student taking a course where the student receives both high school and college credit at the same time. She then went over the recommendations from the task force briefly that can be found on page 116 and 117 of the Agenda Book as follows:

- Establish transitional courses as pathways for under-prepared students that lead directly to dual credit or college course credit when students demonstrate readiness.
- Establish statewide eligibility standards for dual credit course taking that consider a student's readiness in the content area and the relevance of the college course to the student's Individual Learning Plan (ILP).
- Identify content and performance standards from the postsecondary general education core and the career pathways specialty core that are aligned with and expand upon high school graduation requirements and identify the courses in which they are taught. Refer to this curricula or set of courses as the Dual Credit Core, or a suite of courses that represent a clear pathway for the transition from high school to college.
- Ensure that students who meet eligibility standards are provided with equitable opportunity to participate in the Dual Credit Core, through a combination of delivery systems.
- Provide free or discounted tuition and instructional materials to eligible students for Dual Credit Core courses that are relevant to the student's ILP.
- Through policy, funding and professional development, promote and research the effectiveness of new school models and programs that engage underserved students in the Dual Credit Core as a pathway to a postsecondary degree or credential.
- Educate and retain high quality instructors for dual credit programs in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of students.
- Adopt a research agenda to gauge the progress on achieving the anticipated benefits of dual credit course taking.

Jan Muto then made the following points saying that dual credit:

- Has the ability to address students who are at-risk

- Can reinforce student confidence
- Can result in cost savings for students and families
- Can accommodate individual students' learning
- Promotes collaboration between the high schools and colleges

Ms. Muto said that the dual credit enrollment has grown in the last nine years with the vast majority being currently in career and technical education. She emphasized the need to move away from dual credit to dual credit with a purpose.

Bennie Lile then expressed that there had been a smattering of dual credit in Barren County over the years. Then, he said about three years ago there started to be an increase to about 200 students. Lile said he felt this was making the senior year more meaningful and that it brought rigor to the table.

Janna Vice commented that this is very encouraging work. She thought that the greatest outcome of this work could be the alignment of college curriculum and indicated the recommendations to be right on target.

Bonnie Lash Freeman said that she sees this work as supportive to the areas that are focusing on high school reform. She asked if the work of the task force going forward would require funding.

Ms. Pittenger responded that funding would need to be considered as we look at the upcoming budget. She said this information would be gathered and forwarded to the Board.

2. **Update on Implementation of the Individual Learning Plan.** Division Director Linda Pittenger indicated that the Board would see an actual demonstration of the Individual Learning Plan in order to see what it looks like. She explained that it would be from the perspective of teachers, students and parents so that it would be a more hands-on approach. Pittenger also noted that each Board member would be given login credentials for the ILP if they desire to go in and explore the program. She then turned it over to Faith Thompson, Secondary Branch Manager.

Ms. Thompson made introductions of the following individuals: Julia Harmon, ILP Consultant; Lori Beth Wilson, Teacher and Counselor from Ballard Memorial High School; Kayla Buchanan, 11th grade student from Ballard Memorial High School; Cory Keene, 11th grade student from Ballard Memorial High School; Warren Newberry, 11th grade student from Ballard Memorial High School; Luann Ramos, Community Support Coordinator for the Prichard Committee and Jackie West, Vice President of Leadership Outreach for the state PTA. She then asked Julia Harmon to start the actual demonstration and involve the panel.

Ms. Harmon demonstrated the features of the ILP program and individual comments were made by each of the panelists on how it had helped them and their educational career.

Bonnie Lash Freeman expressed that the Department needs to make an extra effort to have a public relations campaign for this program.

3. **703 KAR 5:170, Kentucky Highly Skilled Educator Program Criteria.**

Division Director Barbara Kennedy introduced David Cook and Connie Lester from the Office of Leadership and School Improvement. Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland then explained that this regulation has not been amended for 15 years and requires some technical cleanup. He explained that nowhere in the law did it state a standard for the calculation of salaries for highly skilled educators. Noland said it would be reviewed today and come back for final approval at the October meeting.

David Cook commented that in order to attract and retain top people as highly skilled educators, the salaries had to be competitive with those in school districts.

Barbara Kennedy went on to say the goal is to build capacity in the district. She said that 95% of the schools served by highly skilled educators moved out of assistance. Kennedy went on to share that in the year 2000, 141 schools were in levels 1, 2 or 3 and that by 2006 there were only 38. She also stated that of the 230 schools in assistance over the past two bienniums, 204 have remained out of the assistance category. Kennedy then noted that an LRC study showed that the highly skilled educators, along with the audits and Commonwealth School Improvement Funds, significantly impact student achievement. Additionally, she cited a study by the Partnership for Successful Schools that echoed the finding from the LRC study and the fact that teachers reported more focused professional development, student achievement and leadership when the highly skilled educators were in the school and also the fact that morale was higher. Ms. Kennedy emphasized that the program works.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Action/Consent Items

1. **District Facility Plans: Clay and Graves County School Districts.** Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland and Tim Lucas from the Division of Facilities Management began the presentation by sharing the facilities planning process with the committee.

David Webb then asked what the basis for sending a plan back to the school district would be.

Tim Lucas replied that it would be noncompliance with the regulation.

Kevin Noland then commented that in Graves County, there are lots of good people on both sides of the issue. He explained that staff wanted to outline the facilities process before bringing speakers forward.

Representing the community group, Senator Winters and Representative Nessler was Joe Barrows, Attorney. Barrows summarized the concerns from his constituency and said that Governor Fletcher and the community group request a delay in making a decision on this facility plan. Barrows said that in David Hargrove's letter it said that the Department had driven the current plan, which laid some common ground between the two groups. He then asked the Board not to adopt the plan at this time.

David Hargrove, Attorney for the Graves County School District, then came forward and said that the district had been following the regulation set forth by the state board. He indicated the technical issues that happened in the early part of the bringing the plan forward had been corrected. Hargrove said that the district wants two schools but was told that this did not meet the Department's criteria. Also, he said that there was a problem with renovation costs. Thus, Hargrove indicated that the district had asked for a waiver of the size guideline for elementary schools, which was denied, and so the district felt the only option was consolidation. He commented that the district had followed all procedures and now felt there was no other option to follow. He said that all of the delays cost money and that solutions are needed.

Chair David Webb then opened the floor for deliberations.

Doug Hubbard said that the district had an approved plan for separate schools and that it is not clear where Commissioner Wilhoit stood on this issue. He went on to say that his preference would be to table action on this plan until the October meeting. He then made a motion to this effect.

Chair David Webb asked if Hubbard was including Clay County in the motion.

Doug Hubbard replied affirmatively.

At this point, David Rhodes seconded the motion and it carried, with Judy Gibbons voting no.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. **704 KAR 4:020, School health services (Final).** Division Director Paul McElwain explained that the amendment to this regulation will bring the regulation into compliance with the Department of Public Health's protocol for tuberculosis that requires a risk assessment prior to a tuberculin skin test, unless there is some other factor that requires testing before the risk assessment is

performed. He indicated that no changes had been made to the regulation since the Board saw it in June.

At this point, Judy Gibbons moved final approval of 704 KAR 4:020 and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. **702 KAR 5:080, Bus drivers' qualifications, responsibilities and training (Final).** Division Director Kay Kennedy indicated that as previously explained by Mr. McElwain, the changes to this regulation are to comply with the recommendation to move to a screening program first and then to a skin test for tuberculosis, if necessary.

Doug Hubbard moved final approval of 702 KAR 5:080 and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 3.& 4. **Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) FY08 Unmet Need for LEAs and FY2008 Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Expenditure Plan.** Associate Commissioner David Couch said that these two items come before the Board annually in the technology area. He identified the need for approval by the Board of the unmet technology need across the state and then, he pointed out the need for approval of funding sources for technology initiatives across the state. He said that the staff notes appeared on page 219 and 223 for these items and asked for the Board's approval.

Doug Hubbard moved approval of both the KETS Unmet Need and the KETS Expenditure Plan and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. **2006 Report, 2006 Exceptions and 2008 Plan Required by 702 KAR 1:115, Annual In-Service Training of District Board Members.** Kari Schelling from KSBA came forward to present this item and said that it comes to the Board each year. She summarized that no local board members are out of compliance with the training and that the new training plan is based on a job description of local board members.

Doug Hubbard moved approval of the 2006 Report, 2006 Exceptions and 2008 Plan and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review Items

1. **701 KAR 5:130, Drug Testing of Teachers Involved in Illegal Use of Controlled Substances.** Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland explained that Attorney Anne Keating had worked with KSBA to draft the regulation. He said that legislation indicates a regulation must be promulgated on the testing of teachers with a history of illegal substance abuse.

Keith Travis said that he would like to see a minimum number of times for testing added to the regulation.

Kevin Noland said he would follow up on this request.

2. **Identification of District Watchlist.** Division Director Kay Kennedy came forward and updated the Board on those districts that have been placed on the district watchlist. She explained that districts are expected to end the year with a general fund balance of no less than 2%. Kennedy went on to say that if the balance is less than 2%, the districts are put on a watchlist, which is not meant to be punitive but instead supportive. She said that the most current watchlist had been handed out to the Board and was based on the 2006-2007 annual financial report. Kennedy noted that the districts on the list were Campbellsville Independent, Russell County and Wayne County. She went on to say that 171 districts have closed their books but that four have not sent in their annual financial reports for a variety of reasons that seem to be justified. She went on to say that staff will receive the reports from the independent auditors in the next couple months and will come back to the Board if necessary should any of these situations change. Kennedy summarized that staff will be developing action plans with the districts on the watchlist to move them back into financial stability.

Thursday, August 9, 2007

EVERY STUDENT PROFICIENT AND PREPARED FOR SUCCESS – SETTING KBE PRIORITIES TO REACH PROFICIENCY BY 2014

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland stated that the Board was sent the proposed strategic work priorities under separate cover and that these priorities are connected to the budget, which must be approved in October so that it can be submitted to the Governor's Office of Policy and Management. Noland then proceeded to go through each of the priorities, which were grouped under the goals from the Board's strategic plan.

Under the priorities listed as related to Goal 1, High Student Performance, the following suggestions came from Board members:

- A connection of the Commonwealth School Improvement Plans to professional development and teachers needs to be obvious.
- Student accountability is not as prominent as it should be.
- Critical thinking needs to be added to number 3.
- The essential written and spoken skills, such as vocabulary, structure and grammar, etc., need to be added to number 3 or literacy needs to be defined.

Moving on to Goal 2, High Quality Teaching and Administration, the following suggestions were made by Board members:

- Number 8 needs to have an emphasis on understanding data.
- The priorities need to make sure they highlight instruction.
- An emphasis needs to occur to show that making best practices the rule and not the exception must happen.
- A culture must be created in schools to let everyone know it's a good thing to go to other places to learn about best practices.

For Goal 3, Strong and Supportive Environment for Each School and Every Child, the following comments came from Board members:

- More of a connection with Family Resource/Youth Services Centers on their role in student achievement needs to be made.
- The wording throughout the priorities needs to reflect opportunities for collaboration with partners, including the business community.
- Chambers of Commerce need to be specifically targeted.
- The Association of Manufacturers should be involved.

For Goal 4, High Performing Schools and Districts, Interim Commissioner Noland went over the suggested priorities from Department staff and no specific changes from Board members on the wording were suggested. Noland then asked if there were any other changes to the document because he would like to incorporate the changes heard today and send Board members a revised version next week. He said these could be approved at the Board's next meeting.

Janna Vice commented that she felt the document covers the Board's conversations over the last several months.

C.B. Akins stated that the word "opportunities" is weak and thought a stronger word should be used throughout the document.

Judy Gibbons asked if the dollar figures for each item could be placed right next to the items when the document is revised and sent out to the Board.

Joe Brothers asked for the vision statement to be placed at the top of the document.

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION (KBE) BUDGET PRIORITIES AND PREPARATION OF 2009-2010 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

Interim Commissioner Kevin Noland, Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and Division Director Petie Day came forward for this discussion. Interim Commissioner Noland went over the handout titled “Summary Budget Request, 2008-2010” and the items underneath the four categories of mandated increases by statute/budget instructions, mandated by federal/state statute, essential increases and discretionary increases. Noland emphasized that the Board must make a decision on the budget priorities at the October meeting so that the budget can be submitted on time to the Governor’s Office of Policy and Management.

The following comments came from Board members on revisions or additions to the budget information:

- If schools have Reading First, there is not a need for Read to Achieve.
- Virtual High School needs to be rephrased to say High School Restructuring.
- Alternative education and Family Resource/Youth Services Centers need to be added to the Board’s strategic priorities.
- More documentation is needed on KECSAC students.
- The best money we spend would be on the state’s youngest children.
- Go back and do the calculations for the VPAT and other state assistance programs based on the new test data.
- Bring forward information on the cost of a school nurse in each school.
- Include the cost of raising the mandatory attendance age to 18.
- In the next weekly mailing, send the Board information on initiatives directed at obesity.
- KDE needs to review existing programs for ones that perhaps can be eliminated.

APPROVAL OF ACTION/CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Janna Vice moved approval of the appointments to the Writing Advisory Committee and David Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **704 KAR 4:020, School Health Services (Final).** Chair David Webb reported that this is the second reading of this regulation that applies to school district employees for initial employment. He said the amendment is necessary to bring the regulation into compliance with the “Protocol for Tuberculosis” from the Department of Public Health that requires a risk assessment prior to a tuberculin skin test, unless there is some other factor that requires testing before the risk assessment is performed. Webb conveyed that this is also in line with the Centers for Disease Control recommendations. He then moved on behalf of the Management Committee to give final approval to 704 KAR 4:020 and the Board agreed.
2. **702 KAR 5:080, Bus driver’s qualifications, responsibilities and training (Final).** Chair Webb said that this was also the second reading of this regulation that applies to bus drivers. As with the previous item, he said, the amendments bring it into compliance with the “Protocol for Tuberculosis” and the Department for Public Health that requires a risk assessment prior to a tuberculin skin test and with Centers for Disease Control recommendations. Webb then moved final approval of 702 KAR 5:080 and the Board concurred.
3. **KETS FY08 Unmet Need for LEAs and FY 2008 KETS Expenditure Plan.** Chair Webb explained that both of these items come before the Board annually. He noted that every year the board looks at the unmet technology need across the state and then the identified funding sources to go toward the technology needs across the state. On behalf of the committee, he moved approval of both the unmet need and the 2008 expenditure plan. The Board agreed with the motion.
4. **2008 Report, 2006 Exceptions and 2008 Plan Required by 702 KAR 1:115, Annual in-service training of district board members.** Chair Webb indicated the committee heard from Kari Schelling from KSBA on this item and were advised of the in-service training records, those local board members needing an extension of time for completing required in-service training hours and the 2008 in-service training plan. He said that all items are in order and on behalf of the committee he moved approval of the 2008 Report, 2006 Exceptions and 2008 Plan. The Board concurred with the motion.

REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE ON ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Bonnie Lash Freeman indicated that the committee considered final approval of 704 KAR 7:101, Repeal of 704 KAR 7:100, Approval of operation of alternative education programs for purposes of drivers' license revocation (Final) and she moved final approval of this regulation. The Board concurred with the motion.

BOARD MEMBER SHARING

Bonnie Lash Freeman suggested that presentations on the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for Deaf be moved to come before either the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee or to be heard before a separate committee. She said she thought that these issues needed more visibility.

Janna Vice concurred with Ms. Freeman's recommendation.

Joe Brothers thought that the Board should assign a member to be a liaison to these schools.

David Webb then suggested that the issues for these two schools be assigned to the Curriculum Committee and then a liaison from there could be assigned.

David Rhodes thought that a four-member separate committee could be formed to deal with these schools' issues.

Joe Brothers asked members to think about this and come back for more discussion.

KDE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

Chair Brothers asked if there were any questions on the report and none came forward.

LITIGATION REPORT

At 11:25 a.m., David Rhodes moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing litigation and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board came out of closed session on a motion by Bonnie Lash Freeman and a second by Janna Vice. The motion carried. No action was taken during the closed session.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Chair Joe Brothers brought the following items forward under internal board business:

- Approval to pay the travel expenses for those members attending the annual NASBE conference in Philadelphia - Doug Hubbard moved approval for paying

these travel expenses for those interested in attending the NASBE conference and Janna Vice seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Appointment of Kaye Baird to be the Board's representative attending the October 10-11 NASBE Policy Symposium on Healthy Eating – Doug Hubbard moved approval of Kaye Baird's appointment and David Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Appointment of C.B. Akins, Chair; Jeanne Ferguson and Judy Gibbons to the State Evaluation Appeals Panel. These three members volunteered to serve on the panel.
- An appointment of a committee to choose the winner of the Sam Robinson Award to be given at the October meeting – By consensus, the Board appointed Bonnie Lash Freeman as Chair, and Doug Hubbard and David Webb as members of the committee to select a Sam Robinson Award winner.
- Tenure and qualifications of Board officers – C.B. Akins said that he felt the Board needed to look at the subject of tenure and qualifications for its officers. Doug Hubbard then suggested that the procedures within the Policy Manual on this topic should be examined. Mary Ann Miller was asked to send out the Policy Manual as part of the materials for the October meeting so that this could be discussed again during Internal Board Business.
- Budget Discussion – Joe Brothers asked for at least an hour to be allocated during the September meeting for more discussion on the budget.

CLOSED SESSION ON PERSONNEL

Kaye Baird moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel per KRS 61.810(1)(f) and Bonnie Lash Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried with the Board going into closed session at 12:20 p.m.

At 12:40 p.m., the Board came out of closed session upon a motion by Janna Vice and a second by Jeanne Ferguson. The motion carried. No action was taken during the closed session.

COMMISSIONER'S SEARCH PROCESS

Chair Joe Brothers handed out a sample timeline to consider on the steps for starting and completing a search for a new commissioner of education. He said that someone would need to be chosen to collect the applications and then to review them. Brothers noted that reference checks would have to be done, and a screening committee of stakeholders and partners could come up with a recommendation for the top five.

Jeanne Ferguson said that one of the things that concerned her last time about the process was that all Board members did not get to see all applications.

Joe Brothers indicated that all Board members would get all applications and that the committee would come forward with their top five recommendations. He emphasized the need for confidentiality throughout the process.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then asked if the same criteria would be used for the commissioner as was agreed upon last time. The consensus of the Board was that the same criteria would be used.

Doug Hubbard indicated that he liked Brothers' concept because it gives everyone the chance to get people they think would be good to apply. He felt the problem would be getting the folks to serve on a screening committee.

The following decisions came out of the discussion on the process:

- The Kentucky Department of Education will receive all applications.
- The full Board will serve as the screening committee.
- When it's time to proceed with advertising on a national basis include: The Chronicle on Higher Education, Education Week, diverse publications, The Courier-Journal and Herald Leader. The closing date should be September 15 or September 30, depending upon the deadline for publications.
- The review of applications will begin after September 15 or September 30, whichever date for the closing of publication deadlines is found to be acceptable.
- Board members will do all of the final interviews in order to participate in the final selection.
- The list of finalists will be made public after the selection on October 3 and after background checks have been performed.
- On November 13, interviews in Northern Kentucky will begin around noon or 1:00 p.m.
- Mary Ann Miller will let each Board member know the results of the reference checks by phone.

At this point, Bonnie Lash Freeman moved to approve the process and Judy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:10 p.m., Kaye Baird moved to adjourn the meeting and Doug Hubbard seconded the motion. The motion carried.